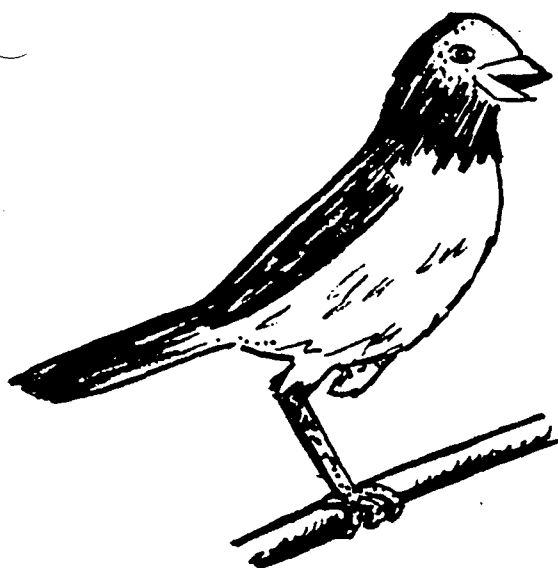


COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



He sat like a king on one leg and surveyed his kingdom! Old Long John Silver we called him.

We had heard his lilting song sung atop the telephone pole in the very back corner of our yard. He proclaimed to his feathered brethren that our backyard was his domain. His perfect balance commanded our admiring attention and respect.

Long John Silver was a large male robin with a bright red breast and warm brown feathers that glistened in the sun. It was almost as if silver dust had been sprinkled over him, so that Long John Silver seemed an apt name.

We often speculated about his deformity and the way it had come about. If he had lost his leg in battle, we just knew his opponent had met a surprisingly stubborn and tenacious foe. Though physically maimed, his proud, staunch, and majestic bearing left no doubt as to his intentions to reign supreme.

He exercised royal prerogative daily. In fact, the demonstrations of his intent to maintain his realm kept us enthralled. He was not intimidated by the raucous scrub jay nor the persistent starlings.

Old Long John Silver held sway throughout the summer, and we were the first to acknowledge that our backyard really belonged to Old Long John!

1. This story is about:
 - (a) a one-legged man
 - (b) birds fighting
 - (c) a deformed bird
 - (d) bird feathers
2. Old Long John Silver is a:
 - (a) blackbird
 - (b) starling
 - (c) jay
 - (d) robin
3. The two physical features that prompted Old Long John Silver's name are:
 - (a) his bill and balance
 - (b) his leg and graying feathers
 - (c) his deformity and his bearing
 - (d) his long legs and silver wing
4. Long John made his kingdom in:
 - (a) the garden
 - (b) the apple tree
 - (c) the oak tree
 - (d) our backyard
5. As a result of his hard work, Long John was able to keep his kingdom for
 - (a) one week
 - (b) a whole season
 - (c) a year
 - (d) a month
6. In this story another word for apt is:
 - (a) unlikely
 - (b) unfasten
 - (c) likely
 - (d) quick-witted
7. From the story we can say that Long John's deformity is:
 - (a) no problem
 - (b) a detriment
 - (c) a weakness
 - (d) a disaster
8. Which word best describes the Long John's opponents?
 - (a) persistent
 - (b) frightening
 - (c) threatening
 - (d) agreeable